Caught in the Crossfire - an ARMS: NEO DESTINY Story

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Caught in the Crossfire - an ARMS: NEO DESTINY Story

by Crossf1reCreat1ons

Summary

It was another day of training at ARMSopolis's signature Spring Gym for the Creative Crew when a terrifying event unexpectedly took place. One of the members of the crew mysteriously went missing after the event and it is up to them to find their friend and bring them back to light.

In this time skip fan AU (alternate universe) of Nintendo's ARMS, a mysterious group has developed a substance that turns superstar ARMS Fighters into corrupted, more destructive beings. It is up to the fighters to utilize what they learned from their journeys and fighting skills to bring a stop to this destructive phenomenon.

~~Credits~~
ARMS is a video game produced by Kosuke Yabuki and developed and published by Nintendo
ARMS: NEO DESTINY is an ARMS AU (Alternate Universe) that I (Crossf1reCreat1ons) have created
Blendercube, Crossfire, Kotemitsu, Stickerbomber, and Zapbolt are all ARMS OCs (Original Characters) that I (Crossf1reCreat1ons) have made

Chapter 1 - The Alarm

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

There is a slight breeze blowing in ARMSopolis [1] that makes the trees' leaves rustle and sway, as well as clouds covering most of the sky, say for the sun slightly peeking through them. ARMSopolis is said to be home of what is widely known as the ARMS Gene, as well as the main headquarters of both the ARMS League and the ARMS Laboratories.

The ARMS League is not only the organizer of ARMS fighting matches, but is also the owner of the Spring Gym, where ARMS Fighters train to their fullest potential, not only for the ARMS Grand Prix, but also for self defense and potential threats larger than themselves.

Speaking of the Spring Gym, right by the entrance are a group of five residents; one in an orange and yellow vest and had metal with soda inside for ARMS, a tall guy with a bright yellow and orange mohawk, a lizard tail with a lightning bolt-shaped tip, and clay for ARMS, another one carrying a kit of what seems to carry screws, bolts, and some tools, and have their right ARM made of wired lights, and their left made of metal, one with pink, purple, and yellow curled hair, having ARMS made of sticker rolls, and overall heavily decorated in stickers and patches, and one who is doesn't appear to be human and more like a digital being from a video game and has floaty limbs.

The guy with the mohawk and clay ARMS took out his phone and started typing a message to another person.

"We've arrived at the Spring Gym! We're ready to kick some butt whenever you and Ultraviolent are ready!"

"Do you guys know when they'll be arriving?" The person in the orange and yellow vest asked the crew in a semi high pitched voice.

The other guy got a text back.

"We'll be there in about 10-15 minutes! See you soon, Zapbolt!"

He then showed the text to the rest of the crew. The one in the orange and yellow vest began to tap their left foot and looked around aimlessly.

"What should we do in the meantime?! Talk about life? Walk around town? Listen to The Synthlights' new single from last week? I've been fixated on that song for a while!" They rambled.

"You sure do have a lot on your mind, Crossfire," the digital being remarked. They sounded like a cheerful robot.

“Of course I do; there’s so much happening in life after all,” Crossfire replied with a smile on their face. They then had their eyes on one of the members’ collection of bolts and screws and got closer to said collection.

“So Kotemitsu, how come there are so many types of bolts and screws and other little thingamabobs?” Crossfire asked.

“Well… different machines and devices require different sizes and properties of parts to stay put,” the one with the wired light ARM named Kotemitsu explained (they had a japanese accent), “It’s like we all have different needs and wants and just like us, machines need different types of parts to stay in one piece.”

“Just like how I decorate my ARMS with all different kinds of stickers!” The heavily decorated crew member shouted. He sounded feminine and had a Brazilian accent.

“It’s kind of like that,” Kotemitsu replied.

“Oh may I please have some stickers to stick to my ARMS, Stickerbomber!?” Crossfire asked with an excited tone to the decorated crew member.

“Of course!” Stickerbomber replied. They then took out a case filled with all kinds of stickers, ranging from large vinyl stickers to holographic sticker sheets and contained all sorts of themes, ranging from simple shapes to iconic characters and people to messages of positivity; it was like looking at a world different from theirs.

“Ohhhh that one looks so shiny!!!” Crossfire took a large sticker of a TV with a screen very commonly seen on blooper reels with said screen having holographic patterns. She then laid her eyes at a particular sticker, “No way! You actually have that sticker of Spring Man!?!? I’ve been looking for that one forever! He is my favorite fighter after all!” She took a sticker of Spring Man that looks exactly like one of the Party Crash Badges back when those used to be given out.

“Yeah an old friend of mine gave that to me,” Stickerbomber said.

Crossfire continued browsing through Stickerbomber’s case of stickers while muttering the word “buzz” to herself. She then took out a sticker of a Penrose Triangle. “I think Blendercube would really like this!” Crossfire said while being very excited. She then turned over to the digital being, “Hey Blendy! I think you might like this!”

Blendercube looked up to the penrose triangle sticker and admired it. “It sure is an intriguing object,” they noted, “I will add it to my collection!”

Crossfire smiled before turning back to Stickerbomber. “I was thinking I’d get my own case of stickers just like you!” Her eyes then glowed a seafoam green and a small translucent case of the same color appeared in front of her before putting the stickers inside.

“There’s a lot of places where you can put stickers!” Stickerbomber replied, “Just don’t clutter my parent’s room with them.”

The crew members all came together and sat by the glass entrance doors of the Spring Gym. Crossfire continued muttering “buzz buzz” to themself, Blendercube applied the penrose triangle sticker to the side of their head, Kotemitsu started fidgeting with the hex nuts in their case, and Stickerbomber is showing their sticker collection to Zapbolt. The latter got hold of a holographic sticker of a wind symbol.

The trees’ leaves were being blown, emitting a rustling sound, louder than usual. The air started to feel a bit colder. Sounds similar to a tesla coil can be heard on the left, however it didn’t seem to come from the sky or any sort of technology around the crew. Zapbolt brought his attention to the change in weather. He was looking left and right for any potential threats.

A sound similar to a bell can be heard in the opposite direction.

“Attention residents. The lookout station has issued an infestation of unknown severity consisting of unknown entities heading towards ARMSopolis. We advise everyone to stay indoors until further notice.”

Nearly everyone’s pupils’ shrunk.

“What do they mean by… infestation?” Kotemitsu managed to speak out.

The tesla coil sounds began to get louder and dozens of light footsteps approached.

Zapbolt looked behind to find out something they had never seen before.

And that “something” is quickly approaching.

They shouted at the other members in a deep masculine voice, “We need to act! NOW!”

Chapter End Notes

[1] Yes I stole the title "ARMSopolis" from my online bestie Axel (aka AxolKat42); I couldn't think of a better name for this god damn city TwT

Chapter 2 - The Infestation

The five crew members all quickly entered the main lobby of the Spring Gym. Zapbolt dashed over to a digital room, which consists of ARMS, equipment of all shapes, sizes, and attributes, and are worn like boxing gloves. He picked out a large, black hammer ARM with blue accents and the Electric Attribute called the Bzzzammer before dashing back to the main lobby.

He then saw the infestation up close.

There were several small entities of various shapes; an ambiguous quadruped with two antenna and pink accents, a cat-like entity with sharp claws and red accents, another cat-like entity with cyan spots, an aircraft entity with deep blue accents, a serpentine/avian entity with yellow wings and accents, and an entity that looks like a venus flytrap and has green accents. They were all pitch black digital beings with jagged edges and had a blocky structure.

Zapbolt took on a more alerted stance while staring at the turmoil outside. Blendercube, Crossfire, and Stickerbomber all went out of the same digital room that he was in after acquiring their own ARMS.

Crossfire had the Pensear, a Fire Attribute Crossbow ARM with pencils as projectiles, Blendercube had the Parazap, an Electric Attribute Shield ARM made of holograms, and Stickerbomber had the Stickler, a Poison Attribute Miscellaneous ARM shaped like one of those sticky hand toys that can stick to targets. Meanwhile Kotemitsu quickly began working on what looks like a mini robot with a laser as a “mouth” and small wheels similar to those seen on tanks.

“Alright everyone, just like my aunt used to say; Watch Your Six.” Zapbolt muttered to the other members.

“Even the Room of ARMS?” Crossfire questioned.

“Yes, even the Room of ARMS.”

Kotemitsu then began to focus on the unusual sound coming from the floor.

“Um… guys…” they stuttered, “I think there is something undernea—“

Suddenly a large serpentine entity with orange accents barged through the floor of the Spring Gym’s lobby, launching Kotemitsu in the air.

“WHAT!?” Stickerbomber shrieked.

“Is Kotemitsu okay?” Blendercube worried.

“Come on! Let’s take it out together!” Crossfire shouted.

“I’LL SHOW THAT THING WHAT WE GOT!” Zapbolt shouted, “BZZZAMMER BASH!” He swung one of his hammer-like ARMS at the serpentine entity, which knocked it down.

Kotemitsu then got up and brought their mini robot forward. “Minibot Assist!” They activated their robot, which began to fire lasers at the entity.

The entity attempted to tackle Blendercube, but they quickly brought their two Parazaps up to their face, electrifying it and knocking it down.

“Pensear Pierce!” Crossfire shouted. They charged their Crossbow ARM, then fired the flaming pencil projectile at the being’s head, giving it a singing sting. It then let out a glitched roar in pain.

“Stickler Slam!” Stickerbomber yelled as they launched one of their ARMS and grappled onto the being, then slammed it to the floor, making it dissolve into mere squares.

The crew members were trying to catch their breath after the turmoil.

“I should patch up the hole in the ground!” Blendercube stated. They then focused deeply, using their technological skills to create a large, off white board large enough to cover the hole.

Kotemitsu held on to their minibot like their life depended on it. Crossfire was looking left and right for any other threats. She then noticed two of the pink ambiguous entities tackling the glass doors outside.

“Should we do something about this?” Crossfire asked the crew while pointing at the entities outside.

The entities stopped tackling and instead opened their jaws, revealing a pink mouth, and emitting an ear piercing noise.

Everyone in the lobby covered their ears, though Kotemitsu is holding their ears shut tighter and is rapidly tapping their foot.

“I can’t handle this…” they muttered before becoming dazed from the loud noise.

The glass doors and windows cracked and turned into a pile of a million pieces.

“OH MY BIFFLER!” Stickerbomber shouted, “GET OUT YOU TWO!!!”

Zapbolt extended one of his springy clay ARMS and slammed the Bzzzammer onto one of the pink entities, knocking it down. Stickerbomber extended one of his ARMS, which stuck onto the other entity, then slammed it to the ground.

The other three members looked outside to find more of the entities of different shapes heading towards the Spring Gym. Kotemitsu then looked up to the sky. “DUCK!” They shouted.

An entity similar to a miniature aircraft with blue accents soared down before firing a light blue projectile made of light at Kotemitsu. They jumped to the side, grabbing their minibot along the way.

Blendercube focused deeply and formed a large cube before forcing it down the jaws of an entity with green accents and is similar to a venus flytrap. Crossfire's eyes glowed a bright green and a mallet made of unknown matter and the same color formed right in front of them. With a strong swing, the entity crashed to the ground before dissolving into mere squares.

Crossfire noticed Kotemitsu and their minibot, as well as the aircraft entity, "DO YOU DO NEED HELP!?" Crossfire shouted before running towards the two "WAIT FOR ME!!!"

Kotemitsu took out pieces of scrap metal, nuts, and bolts and quickly arranged them. As the aircraft is soaring toward them, charging up another projectile of light, Kotemitsu's minibot charged up and shot a projectile of light of its own, knocking back the aircraft.

Crossfire looked up at the entity. Immediately they lifted up one of their Springy ARMS and charged up their Pensear, with its projectiles emitting a little ember at the tip.

The aircraft flew up. "Wait, why would it do that?" Crossfire wondered, "Is there anyone up there?"

"CROSSFIRE BEHIND YOU!" Kotemitsu shouted.

"Huh?"

Crossfire then felt a light push on the back of their head. Though it was blunt, it left a tingly feeling in them.

"Arrgh…" they were knocked back a bit, "wh-whoooaaa… feels… funky…"

Kotemitsu ran up to Crossfire, laid their hands on their shoulders, then shook them back and forth rapidly. "WE DON'T HAVE ALL DAY!" They continued to shout, "WE CAN'T JUST BE SITTING DUCKS!!!"

Crossfire regained their focus. "Oh yeah… right…"

They saw the aircraft flying in their direction… quickly…

"OH!" They panicked as they fired one of their Pensears, which ended up hitting the front of the entity. It crashed into the ground before dissolving into squares.

Crossfire looked at Kotemitsu before grabbing them and lifting them in the air.

"Thanks for looking out for me!" They cheered as they gave them a hug.

"Umm… I appreciate the hug, but we shouldn't celebrate too soon…" Kotemitsu replied.

"Oh yeah we still have some of those things to beat!" Crossfire brought Kotemitsu back onto their feet.

Crossfire then heard a sound from behind them. It sounded like leaves rustling.

“You can handle the other guys, I’ll see where the rustling is coming from,” Crossfire whispered to Kotemitsu before starting to investigate.

“STAY SAFE, CROSSFIRE!” Kotemitsu shouted in return.

Crossfire walked closer to the sound, still having their Pensears up.

“I feel a little nervous and I don’t even know why,” Crossfire thought to themself as they got closer. They traveled to an open field as they continued to follow the noise.

The rustling noise died down by the time Crossfire had arrived at the location. They walked up to a set of bushes with green leaves with pink tips.

“Um… Buzz buzz?” They said with noticeable uncertainty.

Crossfire took another step closer to the bush. Before they knew it, they felt a large, heavy tackle to their stomach, knocking them down to the ground. It was almost like a person had tackled them…

Except it wasn’t…

Crossfire looked up to see one of those pitch black, blocky, digital entities they and the other crew members had been fighting, though this one in particular was larger and had two accent colors instead of one; cyan and red. It also appears to be vaguely modeled after some kind of dog.

Crossfire picked themself back up, still shocked from the tackle, and took aim with their Pensears at the entity. They pulled the trigger that was inside, launching the projectile and firing at one of its legs.

The entity quickly retaliated by swiftly dashing towards Crossfire’s left before tackling them to the ground again. They quickly got back up, with their eyes glowing green again, forming a mallet of the unknown matter from before.

They swung the mallet left and right at the entity, however it also dashed left and right without any noticeable scratches or injuries. They threw the mallet at it, however it leapt backwards, further than the weapon was thrown before it disappeared.

Crossfire charged up their Pensears again. They continued to breathe heavily as the entity kept staring at them, letting out a loud buzzing noise.

“I’ll… show you what… a buzz is…” Crossfire grunted.

They attempted to use their ability to temporarily create things, however they were losing their focus.

“I… don’t… want to… sur…ren…der…” They muttered as their vision started getting blurry, though not to the point of unrecognizability.

They pulled the trigger and fired another projectile. It had hit one of the bushes instead of the digital entity.

The entity charged up to Crossfire and tackled them at the torso. Not only did Crossfire feel the pain on their torso, but also the jaws from the entity biting down on their right shoulder. It felt like a bunch of mini pocket knives were wedged into their right shoulder.

Crossfire was pushed to the ground yet again. They heard a buzzing sound coming from the newly made bite mark on their shoulder.

“Buzz… buz-YEEOOUUUCCCHHH!” Crossfire then felt a sharp feeling of pain on their shoulder, which started to quickly spread to their arm.

“MAYDAY! MAYDA-RRRRGGGGGHHHHH!!” Crossfire’s voice began to glitch. They quickly covered their mouth with their other arm.

“What happened to my voice?” They thought in their head quickly. “I don’t think I’m digital!”

They looked down to their ARM to find out something shocking. It was not the same as it once was, as with technology they are unfamiliar with, it was turning into a gray arm with accents of different shades of blue and made of some unknown material.

“ARRRRRRRRGGGGGHHHHHH!!! G-G-G-GUUUUYYYYSSS-S-S!!!!” They shouted with their voice glitching up more and more.

“CROSSFIRE!?!?” They heard Stickerbomber yell from a good distance away.

The crew members saw Crossfire get back up on their feet, loaded up their glitched up ARM, then fired a red laser, swiftly heading towards them.

Stickerbomber jumped to the side, with the laser hitting the ground, leaving a large cloud of dust.

“We must get Crossfire out of this peril!” Kotemitsu stated before the crew started running up to Crossfire.

“BANG!” The sound of a weapon went off, with a teal holographic projectile piercing through Crossfire’s corrupted arm, knocking them down. A large soundwave swiftly followed.

“You guys seize them, while I take care of the other ones…” a masculine voice was faintly heard.

Two nearly identical people in white coats, goggles, noise cancellers, and facemasks which completely obscured their face, and large pieces of machinery and technology strapped to themselves quickly ran up to Crossfire and the crew members ran to different angles of the area, surrounding them.

“LEAVE THEM ALONE!” Stickerbomber shouted while extending one of their ARMS at one of the masked people.

The other masked person looked up and commanded their machine to summon a holographic arm, which extended and grappled onto Stickerbomber’s extended ARM before lifting them in the air.

“HEY!” Stickerbomber shouted angrily, “GET ME DOWN YOU PILE OF DUST!”

“OH YOU’LL PAY FOR THIS!” Zapbolt growled as they extended one of their ARMS and swung their Bzzzammer at one of the masked people, scratching their machine.

“BANG!” was the sound of another holographic projectile being fired towards Zapbolt.

“ARGH!” he shouted, “WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT!?”

The masked person tackled Zapbolt to the ground before speaking into a built-in microphone. “Continue the process while I stop the other guys!” They commanded. They had an androgynous voice.

“Rodger,” the other person spoke into their mic. They had a masculine voice that sounded slightly higher than the previous masculine voice.

Blendercube formed a bunch of cubes with their abilities, while Kotemitsu utilized their minibot to attempt to disrupt the masked people. Together they sent a barrage of cubes and light projectiles at the two people.

The one on top of Crossfire talked into their mic, “We need backup!”

As Zapbolt pushed the other person off of them, he was met with another “BANG!” to the chest, sending him a buzzing shock.

“ARGH CUT IT OUT WHOEVER SHOT THAT!” He shouted.

The cubes and light projectiles rained down on the two people like blinding hail, striking the masked person on top of Zapbolt by the head, Zapbolt by the back, amplifying the pain even more, Crossfire by the head, though they barely even reacted, Stickerbomber by the back of their head, and the other masked person on top of Crossfire by the goggles, nearly knocking them off.

They quickly readjusted them before eyeing down at Blendercube and Kotemitsu. They swung their holographic arm, throwing Stickerbomber with great force and knocking them all down.

Crossfire eventually turned into a mere hologram of themself before completely disappearing.

One of the masked people talked into their mic, “Professor, we captured the target and we are now heading back to the station.”

The other masked person pushed Zapbolt to the ground before running alongside the other person. Despite his strength, lifting himself up while having a holographic projectile impaled into his back was easier said than done.

Stickerbomber slowly pushed himself up with his arms. A sharp sense of pain came to his head.

“Are… you guys… okay?” He croaked out.

“I… need to know… if my minibot… is still intact…” Kotemitsu worried.

“It is back here,” Blendercube settled the minibot next to Kotemitsu.

“Thanks, Blender,” Kotemitsu calmed down for a moment.

“Well…” Stickerbomber began to worry, “We should find a way to get Crossfire out of this mess.”

“Yeah…” Zapbolt slowly picked themself back up, “I have no idea what those things they fired were.” He took a deep breath. “We better keep going, for the Creative Crew will reunite!”

“Yeah!” Stickerbomber, Kotemitsu, and Blendercube all said in unison before extending one of their arms alongside Zapbolt and layering them one on top of another.

“Alright, let’s kick their asses!!!” Zapbolt shouted before the crew members ran from the fields.

…

While Crossfire couldn’t fully open their eyes, the only thing they could see was a void of a teal hue with what appears to be lighter teal screens. They looked down to their body to find that a majority of it has drastically changed to have various shades of blue. It felt familiar, yet also unnerving, yet despite all of this…

…they didn’t feel anything…

…it was almost like someone or something was taking over their body…

…and they don’t even know how much longer the feeling would last…

…or how long they would be in the area they are in…

…which to them feels like purgatory…

Chapter 3 - The Breaking Point

“We got someone…” The higher masculine voice from earlier was heard from one of the hallways connected to a dimly lit room full of computers and machines. They took the machine off and settled it on the ground next to one of the desks.

“Alright, transfer them to a module and I’ll plug it into the database,” a feminine voice was heard.

“Rodger.”

The masked person gave the other person what looks like a USB Drive, which was then plugged into one of the machine’s inputs.

“You know, Bit, I always get the feeling that someone is watching us…” the person with the masculine voice began to ramble, “I really don’t want this plan to get foiled by someone.”

“It’s okay, Code.” The person codenamed “Bit” comforted them, “We’ll be sure everything is under control.”

Another person walked into the door. From what was visible, he looked a lot like the other masked people, wearing goggles that obscured his face, and a white coat, however unlike them, he was not wearing a facemask, revealing a dark gray beard, nor is he wearing noise cancellers, but rather a black and teal headset with antennae on each earcup.

“Professor,” “Code” began to speak again, “The ARMSopolis Infestation has captured a suspect.”

“I’ll take a look at its information,” the professor stated. He had a deep and coarse masculine voice, “Insert its data into one of the computers.”

“Bit” looked over to the module and noticed it was glowing a bright teal. They would later reach out and remove it from the machine, then insert it to a large computer.

Information showed up on the monitor connected to the computer. The professor took a closer look at the information being displayed.

“Crossfire Citrus Shinestar,” the professor read out, “A more recent fighter of the ARMS Sport, and having the ability to temporarily create objects from their imagination. I’ll be sure their abilities get utilized for our operation.”

He took himself to a screen containing a table of information, as well a sprite containing blue pixels shown in a disorderly fashion. The table of information contained information regarding Crossfire’s identity, what they are known for, abilities, last known whereabouts, and even current condition.

He began typing with the keyboard.

“Bit, install a pocket dimension so the data can be transferred,” the professor commanded, “We need to test it first.”

“Rodger,” they replied.

Another module was inserted into the computer. A message then popped up which displayed a progress bar.

“I’ll moderate the infestation in the meantime,” “Code” stated as they went to another computer on the other side of the room.

“I’ll moderate the other suspects,” “Bit” stated as they walked out of the door and into a hallway.

“Make sure you two are actually doing your jobs!” The Professor shouted.

“Rodger,” “Code” stated as the two people walked through the doorway and closed the door. After the two had left, his mind began drifting to a particular field of thoughts.

“They deserve this…” he began to ramble to himself, “Everyone on this forsaken planet deserves all of this… for each day they bring themselves closer and closer to the sun, melting their own flesh, scales, fur, bones, spare parts, and the like in the process. Centuries upon centuries of war, carnage, prejudice, and fear… yet they learned nothing from all of that… even if they stated they did… I can still hear the lies that lie beneath their empty promises… With each day passing brings this operation closer to fruition, for it will wash away the burdens of this blood soaked planet and bring forth a digital utopia… only the final day of humanity arriving and the first day of technological utopia following it will bring me to eternal peace.”

Silence filled the room.

He took a deep breath before looking back at the progress bar, which is now fully teal, then clicked on a button below the progress bar, which opened up a list of files. He opened up the data of Crossfire and dragged it on over to the list of files. He clicked on the file at the top of the list, which opened up an application. A gray screen popped up with a progress bar that began being filled with a teal hue.

“It should be worth maintaining,” he muttered to himself, “Considering its prior experience in the ARMS Grand Prix and other abilities…”

Meanwhile, back in ARMSopolis…

Zapbolt and Stickerbomber are seen outside of the Spring Gym, surrounded by entities that they had been fighting earlier.

“BUZZ OFF PESTS!” Zapbolt shouted as he swung one of his Bzzzammers at one of the cat-like entities with red accents, then pummelling it into mere bits and squares.

“YOU WON’T GET AWAY WITH KIDNAPPING CROSSFIRE!” Stickerbomber shouted as they swung another one of the cat-like entities, albeit with cyan accents, with one of their Sticklers before launching it far away.

The two noticed more entities from all angles charging towards them. The two stood behind each other’s backs. Stickerbomber’s Stickler ARMS glowed a bright magenta and started expanding in and out while Zapbolt’s Bzzzammer ARMS’ protective plates extended and the ARMS themselves discharged electricity.

“INTOXICATING TERMINATION SHOCK!!!” The two shouted in unison. The two pressed their equipped ARMS together, sharing material from one another, quickly swapped to their other equipped ARM, locked into one another with their springy ARMS, then quickly spun in a circle. The material that Stickerbomber’s Sticklers were made of infused with electricity from Zapbolt’s Bzzzammers quickly shot in all directions as the two kept spinning, leaving multiple entities either intoxicated or paralyzed. The two then swung their ARMS in a circular motion, destroying the entities in rapid succession.

“That. Was. Awesome!!!” Stickerbomber shouted astoundingly.

“Yeah it was,” Zapbolt replied with a smile on their face.

CRASH! A sound was heard from behind both of them.

“Oh snapcrackers!” Stickerbomber worried as they looked back to find out another window at the Spring Gym had shattered, “KOTEMITSU! BLENDERCUBE! ARE YOU GUYS ALRIGHT!?”

Back at the Spring Gym, Blendercube, Kotemitsu, and the latter’s minibots were around one of the serpentine entities from earlier. Blendercube had their Parazaps held up while Kotemitsu tended to their minibot. The serpentine entity swiftly jolted towards Kotemitsu, pressing its jaws down onto their left ARM. The minibot immediately fired a projectile of light at the entity, leaving it in a daze, and Blendercube formed an object similarly shaped to a thorn, then utilized it to pierce through the entity’s head, dissolving it into squares.

“Remain… calm Kotemitsu…” Kotemitsu muttered to themself. They lifted their left ARM closer to their sight. No dents can be spotted, yet the heightened reaction from them persists.

“Must take cover!” Blendercube shouted as they utilized their technological skills to form more boards in order to cover up the broken windows and glass doors.

The two then saw two familiar builds outside. “ARE YOU TWO OKAY!?” one of the voices shouted.

“We’re gonna need your help, you two!” Kotemitsu snapped back to reality at the sound of the voice.

“INCOMING!” The other voice shouted. They lunged forward, knocking one of the boards covering the doors down.

“ZAPBOLT! THE THINGS!” Blendercube panicked.

“WE’LL GET RID OF THOSE BASTARDS!” Zapbolt shouted.

“SHOW YOURSELVES, DUST BUNNIES!” Stickerbomber shouted as they charged their Stickler ARMS, “SHOW US THOSE DAUNTING JAW-”

Stickerbomber was swiftly hit with a large force from behind, almost as if someone or something had tackled them.

The other three members saw the dog-like entity with cyan and red accents on top of Stickerbomber.

“THAT’S IT!” Zapbolt shouted angrily, “THAT THING’S GETTING A BZZZAMMER BASH TO THE FACE!”

The entity quickly jumped off and emitted a loud buzzing noise. Blendercube lifted up their Parazap ARMS again, while Kotemitsu quickly tapped on the settings on their minibot alongside a newly created one.

“FIRE AWAY, YOU TWO!” Kotemitsu commanded the two minibots. The first minibot charged up a projectile of light, while the second one charged up a projectile of fire. The two fired their projectiles at the entity before it lunged itself towards Blendercube.

Even with the Parazaps held up, Blendercube was immensely knocked back by the entity’s lunge.

Blendercube briefly looked back, “EEP! MORE THINGS!” They saw dozens of entities by the entrance of all shapes by the door, ranging from the venus flytrap and plane like entities, to the feline and serpentine like entities, to the ambiguous entities who were able to make ear piercing screeches. It looked like there were hundreds of them, “THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!”

They attempted to form multiple blocks at once and utilize them to either knock back the entities or build up a fort to prevent them from venturing any closer.

“I’LL HELP YOU!” Kotemitsu ran right next to Blendercube, with their minibots following suit.

As the two were watching over the entrance, Zapbolt and Stickerbomber continued to confront the entity. Stickerbomber was standing on top of the board that Blendercube has created earlier while Zapbolt stood in front of the entrance. The two spreaded their springy ARMS and charged their ARMS Equipment.

The entity emitted a loud buzzing sound again.

Stickerbomber extended one of their ARMS and aimed at the entity. It swiftly dodged and lunged itself toward them.

The board Stickerbomber was standing on quickly disintegrated, revealing the large hole on the floor from earlier.

“OH SH--” Stickerbomber suddenly felt like he was pushed off of a tall building.

Zapbolt immediately reacted by jumping into the hole, but not before using one of his Bzzzammers as an anchor. He quickly extended one of his ARMS down the hole.

“GRAB MY ARM!” Zapbolt’s voice echoed down the hole.

He felt a jelly-like substance grab on his arm.

“ARE YOU TWO OKAY!?” Blendercube’s voice was heard from above.

“WE’LL BE UP SHORTLY!” Zapbolt shouted.

Another buzzing sound was heard, “YEOUCH!” Blendercube yelped.

“BLENDERCUBE!” Kotemitsu’s voice was heard. They sounded distressed.

Zapbolt started an attempt to lift both himself and Stickerbomber up to the surface. He felt them grabbing onto higher parts of his arm, almost as if it’s a ladder.

“I’LL GO SAVE ZAPBOLT AND STICKERBOMBER!” Blendercube shouted.

“ARE YOU REALLY SURE!?” Kotemitsu sounded even more distressed.

As Zapbolt continued to lift the two up, Stickerbomber reached up to the surface and reached one of their ARMS to the surface.

“I AM 100 PERCENT SURE I CAN HELP THE--”

Another tackle was heard, “YEOW! cried Blendercube. Zapbolt felt the Bzzzammer anchoring both him and Stickerbomber slip off the floor of the surface. Gravity began to pull him down and at a steadily increasing pace.

“DAMN IT!” the words slipped from Zapbolt’s mouth.

“BLENDERCUBE!!!” Kotemitsu’s voice was heard, even more stressed than before.
“AUGH!” They sounded like they had been tackled to the ground.

Stickerbomber quickly felt the weight of Zapbolt weighing him down, which would eventually weigh them down as well. Their arm stretched longer than it should have, causing more and more strain. Despite them latching on the top of the hole, gravity would eventually take them as well.

The two looked upwards to find two more beings falling down the hole.

“HELP!” A familiar voice shouted.

“DON’T WORRY BLENDERCUBE!” Stickerbomber shouted, “I’LL HOLD ON TO YOU!” He reached one of his hands out, to which they grabbed onto.

The second being fell closer to the sight of the other three. It was pitch black and had cyan and red accents. It didn’t take long for the three to realize…

“IT’S THE THING WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING!” Blendercube yelped.

“AND WE’RE GOING TO DESTROY IT ONCE AND FOR ALL!” Zapbolt shouted with determination.

“YEAH!” Blendercube and Stickerbomber shouted in unison.

“I’M JOINING YOU GUYS!” Another familiar voice was heard from above, “I DON’T WANT TO GO WITHOUT YOU THREE!”

“THE MORE THE MERRIER, KOTEMITSU!” Stickerbomber shouted.

The entity emitted a loud buzzing noise, yet it remained in place. Kotemitsu brought out their two minibots and shouted “FIRE AWAY!”

The minibots charged up projectiles of light and fire respectively and fired them at the entity, briefly leaving it in a daze.

“PARAZAP PARRY!” Blendercube shouted as they held both of their Parazaps up before charging them, with both of them emitting light and electricity.

“EAT DUST, YOU PILE OF JUNK!” Stickerbomber shouted at the entity as they reached out to it with their Stickler ARM and slammed it onto Blendercube’s Parazaps, electrifying it in the process.

“SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR EXISTANCE, VIRUS!” Zapbolt shouted at the entity before reaching out and swinging one of his Bzzzammers at it. The entity would be swept across the tunnel they were all falling down, eventually beig slammed to the walls.

The entity emitted a buzzing sound before it started to disintegrate into cyan, red, and magenta squares, just like all the other entities that the crew members had fought earlier.

The crew members all heard a crack, coming from the walls. That sound would later turn to consistent crumbles. Each crew member had little pebbles flash before their eyes.

The crumbles began to get louder.

“HOLD ON TIGHT EVERYONE!” Zapbolt commanded, “THIS IS GOING TO BE ROUGH!”

“IF I’M GOING TO DIE, I’D RATHER DIE WITH YOU GUYS!” Stickerbomber cried out.

Kotemitsu felt their minibots escaping from their grasp as they continued to fall, “GAH! SOMEONE SAVE THEM!” they shouted.

“ROGER THAT!” Blendercube replied as they reached out to Kotemitsu’s minibots with their uncharged Parazaps. With enough focus, the minibots turned into holograms of themselves before disintegrating.

“SAVED THEM!” Blendercube shouted.

The four all utilized their springy ARMS to form a giant circle around them before wrapping around one another, locking themselves into a group hug.

The light from the surface was barely visible at this point; they continued to dive down the crumbling, pitch black void. Buzzing sounds from below echoed into the tunnel the four were diving down.

“I’ll miss you guys…” Kotemitsu muttered, “And Crossfire too…”

More buzzing sounds could be heard, which sounded more and more glitchy as they continued diving.

The crew members felt a liquid splash through their bodies before being completely submerged in it. It felt similar to diving into a swimming pool shrouded in darkness. They loosened up their arms before unlocking themselves from the hug. Kotemitsu swam upwards until finding a surface. The lights on their springy ARMS lit up, illuminating the body of liquid around them, which was revealed to be a gray, semi-opaque liquid. They felt unnerved at the sight of what was illuminated. The place the four ended up in was like no other.

The other three crew members reached the surface of the body of liquid, with Blendercube reaching onto Kotemitsu’s back and Stickerbomber being seen on top of Zapbolt’s back.

“If there is an exit to this place, we’ll get out of there and find Crossfire,” Kotemitsu stated.

The Unfamiliar Place

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

"Where do we go?" Stickerbomber muttered, noticeably worried, "Assuming this isn't just an endless body of water…"

"I don't see any sign of land," Zapbolt squinted his eyes and tried to look at the horizon, which was pitch black, "But we can't just be doing nothing…"

"I got an idea!" Blendercube shouted as they began to focus deeply. A long plank formed in front of the crew members. The plank fell into the liquid before swiftly being brought back to the surface by itself. Blendercube hopped off of Kotemitsu's back and onto the plank. They felt the plank slip, catching them off guard and nearly falling into the liquid.

"More planks need to be made!" They yelped.

"How about you jump onto my back again while you can create more planks?" Kotemitsu explained, "Zapbolt and Stickerbomber can watch the planks for you."

"That sounds like a good idea!"

As Blendercube swam back to Kotemitsu, Stickerbomber reached out to the plank that was created. He looked up to the horizon and squinted his eyes. It was still pitch black and there were no signs of land.

"What if we can shoot some light over the horizon?" Stickerbomber muttered.

"Kotemitsu has their minibots," Zapbolt replied, "We can use those if they're alright with it."
"I appreciate the thought, but I don't know if now would be a good time…" Kotemitsu worried, "I'm worried they will sink and either be lost or destroyed."

"I can turn the planks into a raft and we can set the Light Minibot on top of it," Blendercube explained, "I have accomplished that back in my home world."

"Handy to have some survival skills," Zapbolt replied.

"Then what are we waiting for?" Stickerbomber shouted, "LET'S GET CREATING!"

"ALRIGHT!!!" The other three members happily shouted in unison.

As Blendercube crafted more planks and eventually cylinders made of the same material, Stickerbomber utilized their Stickler ARMS to grab the materials, with the material of said ARMS preventing them from drifting away. Zapbolt wrapped his springy ARMS around the lower half of Stickerbomber's legs, securing them in front of his shoulders and preventing the latter from falling. Kotemitsu was still seeking for land, however they still had no luck.

“Hopefully this plan works…” Kotemitsu began to worry, “What if the minibot’s too heavy? What if it sinks the raft?”

“If we utilize enough materials underneath the raft, we can nullify the gravity with buoyancy, which in return will prevent it from sinking. We just need to build the raft a certain way to make it work,” Blendercube explained, “By hollowing out the cylinders, they can stay afloat, just like a beach ball. In order for the minibot to stay afloat, we must create a surface that is much larger than the area the minibot covers and we must have enough hollow cylinders to cover the area of the planks.”

“Sounds like a plan,” Kotemitsu replied, “Machinery for underwater use hasn’t been a strong suit of mine; I focus more on terrestrial and underground use.”

“According to the data of the Light Minibot, it covers approximately 1 square foot, so to give it plenty of space, the raft should cover approximately 16 feet, with the raft itself measuring 4 feet by 4 feet. It must also be secured in place to prevent it from falling over.”

“Hopefully that doesn’t happen…” Kotemitsu got mildly disgruntled.

“Maybe I can keep the bot in place,” Stickerbomber suggested.

“Good idea!” Kotemitsu shouted.

Once the crew members had exchanged ideas and plans, Zapbolt and Stickerbomber both extended their ARMS to the materials that Blendercube had created. Blendercube took a deep breath and deeply focused. The materials that were previously looked after faintly glowed before levitating above the crew, rearranging them so that the cylinders were below the planks. A cyan string of light swirled around the creation before disappearing. The creation fell to the liquid, creating a mini splash before floating on top of the surface.

“That’s so awesomazing!” Stickerbomber shouted in awe.

“And now, for the cherry on top,” Blendercube announced before a cyan hologram formed in front of them, “Kotemitsu’s minibot!”

“Hopefully this actually works…” Kotemitsu thought to themself.

The hologram integrated, revealing more and more of its shape. As soon as it fully integrated, Blendercube was immediately caught off guard by the weight of it, nearly losing grip of it. Both Blendercube and Kotemitsu began to panic for a bit before two hands reached towards the object.

“I GOT IT!” Stickerbomber shouted as they extended their ARMS, catching the object with their Stickler ARMS. They then brought it closer to themself, revealing it to be Kotemitsu’s first minibot. They extended their ARMS again and gently placed it on top of the raft. The raft bobbed down closer to the liquid, which caused Stickerbomber to flinch a bit.

“No worries,” Blendercube began to ramble, “Air is naturally less dense than water. Otherwise we wouldn’t have oceans or rivers or rain or even a nice cup of water.”

“You don’t say…” Stickerbomber muttered, still mildly surprised from the bobbing.

“Alright, let’s find some land!” Zapbolt shouted.

“Y-YEAH!” Stickerbomber shouted with a slight voice crack.

…

“Wait, how do we get the minibot to work?” They asked.

“I got this,” Kotemitsu replied before taking a deep breath and shouting, “FIRE!”
The minibot began charging a projectile of light, illuminating the area before firing it. The projectile zoomed past the crew members, briefly illuminating the path it was taking, as well as something else that caught the eyes of Kotemitsu.

“Is that land I see!?” They squeaked.

“Is it really-” Stickerbomber muttered before a large blue flash flickered in the distance, revealing a silhouette of what appears to be an island with large jagged pillars.

“That’s land!” Blendercube cheered.

“And it doesn’t seem to be too far away!” Kotemitsu stated excitedly.

“Come on, crew!” Zapbolt shouted, “Let’s go!”

Stickerbomber was astonished at the sight of the big blue flash. “That is land…” he thought to himself, “But that flash seems kind of treacherous… Is there anywhere else we can go?”

…

“I got the minibot from here,” Kotemitsu stated to Stickerbomber, “You and Blendercube can lead the way.”

“Oh!” Stickerbomber snapped back to reality, “Y-yeah I got it!”

Stickerbomber slowly dipped their leg in the liquid before submerging themself in it and swimming toward the raft, swimming past Kotemitsu who was heading towards Zapbolt. Blendercube then hopped onto Stickerbomber’s back.

As Stickerbomber began pushing the raft forward, a worrying expression formed on his face. He slowly looked down and sounds of mumbling came from his mouth. The mumbling itself was unintelligible, yet still carried the emotion of worry.

“Are you okay, Sticker?” Zapbolt asked concerningly.

Stickerbomber took a deep breath before looking around the area, which was still pitch black say for the illuminated aspects. They opened their mouth, yet not a single word exited from it. They were unsure of why. They continued looking around for an explanation, yet they couldn’t find any answers. Eventually, they just mumbled to themself again, being quieter

and even less intelligible.
Zapbolt's expression of concern became more apparent. "Do you want me to be right next to you?" He asked more softly.

Stickerbomber simply gave a nod to Zapbolt.

Zapbolt kicked his feet faster and moved his arms as if they're giant paddles, propelling himself through the liquid. He then gripped onto the raft with one of his hands and pulled himself closer to it.

"Is everything alright?" Blendercube noticed Zapbolt swimming next to Stickerbomber.

"I don't know if this is a good idea…" Stickerbomber murmured quietly, "Especially with that blue flash… isn't there any other place we can go to?"

Zapbolt soaks up the words and emotions that came from Stickerbomber.

"I understand how you feel," Zapbolt began to speak to Stickerbomber, "Especially in a place we have never been before. The way I see this situation is that if we take risks, it can lead us to our solutions or something even greater."

Zapbolt reached out his other hand, "You are not alone in this situation. We members of the Creative Crew are stronger together."

Stickerbomber reached out one of their hands and shook Zapbolt's other hand. Their expression of worry turned into one of determination. "The more the merrier," they stated clearly, "I promise to stick with you guys until the end."

"Hooray!" Blendercube cheered in response.

"That's the spirit!" Zapbolt exclaimed.

"FULL SPEED AHEAD!" Kotemitsu and Blendercube shouted in unison.

Together Stickerbomber and Zapbolt pushed the raft and propelled themselves closer to the land, with Blendercube and Kotemitsu clinging onto their shoulders. Kotemitsu kept an eye on the minibot in hopes it would tip over and fall into the liquid, while Blendercube tried their best to get a good sight at the upcoming land.

The crew members paddled through the liquid, determined to reach the land that had been spotted. Another series of blue flashes flickered over the top of the land, revealing more of it. On top of having jagged pillars, it is also revealed to have large, menacing trees that didn't seem to have leaves and the branches reaching out in ways unusual compared to a regular tree.

"There's something abnormal about the pillars here," Blendercube stated. Upon further investigation, it was brought to Kotemitsu's attention in particular that the pillars appeared to be glitching in and out and emitting static buzzes.

"Feel free to store my minibot whenever you can…" Kotemitsu quivered.

“You got it!” Blendercube responded.

Time went on as the crew members continued swimming across the liquid and more information about the land they were traveling to were slowly being revealed.

“If there is a way back to ARMSopolis somewhere on this island, then we’re taking that exit,” Zapbolt stated, mostly to themself, “We will go through whatever hell is thrown at us… it will be worth it…”

“Wait, what about Crossfire?” Stickerbomber overheard Zapbolt’s statement.

“Didn’t they get kidnapped by those guys?” Kotemitsu responded.

“What would they do with Crossfire though?” Stickerbomber questioned, “Plus, what if Crossfire ended up here somehow? Now I’m wondering, is this some purgatory? Will there be an exit? Will people eventually forget about us? We’ll be considered tardy at best and dead at worst!”

“We will find a way out of this “purgatory,”” Blendercube replied. Stickerbomber froze in shock in response.

“...Yeah I don’t think the emphasis on purgatory helped,” Zapbolt replied disappointingly to Blendercube.

“So this isn’t purgatory?” Blendercube said curiously.

“Well…” Zapbolt didn’t know how to answer the question.

The crew members felt the raft swiftly slowing down to a stop, as well as Zapbolt and Stickerbomber feeling what felt like land beneath their feet. They looked up to find a white floor in front of them, along with dark gray, deep blue, and cyan patches scattered throughout the area.

Blendercube hopped in the front of the raft and onto the floor. It felt like walking on the floors of buildings such as schools, shopping centers, and the like, however there was an extra sense of electricity beneath their feet, feeling like static electricity. While it wasn’t painful, it was noticeable to them.

“Hello?...” Kotemitsu squeaked out softly at the land in front of them as Blendercube walked back to the raft.

Zapbolt and Stickerbomber walked up to Kotemitsu for a better view at the land they were about to explore.

“We should stick together like you said earlier,” Zapbolt stated, “We do not declare ourselves lost, but rather we declare ourselves on our journey home. That’s what my mom used to say.”

“That’s what my parent used to say to me too!” Stickerbomber recalled.

“Great minds do think alike after all,” Kotemitsu replied softly.

“I saved the minibot!” Blendercube announced.

“Thanks,” Kotemitsu replied, “Now… to continue!”

“Alright!” Zapbolt announced, “LET’S FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE!”

The crew members walked up what appeared to be a hill in front of them, which housed more of the same materials from before, as well as a dark red horizon blending into the dark gray, almost pitch black “sky.” Other parts of the area seen is a river consisting of the same gray liquid and those pillars they saw earlier. They looked to be a bunch of geometric shapes cobbled together and overlapping with one another.

Blendercube’s curiosity brought them closer to the pillar.

“Blendercube!” Kotemitsu shouted, “That thing could be dangerous!”

“How dangerous can it be?” They wondered as they continued to approach the pillar. From a glance, it appeared to be glowing white and buzzing sounds could be heard from it. Kotemitsu swiftly extended their ARMS, grabbing Blendercube and bringing them closer to them. The pillar unleashed lightning at the spot Blendercube was at before.

…

“...Holy Biff…” Kotemitsu muttered.

“Are you two okay?” Stickerbomber worried.

“Let’s just… stay away from the pillars…” Kotemitsu explained, “Seems that they’re up to no good…”

The crew members brought themselves to the river of gray liquid, which was flowing to their left. Despite the flow, no audible sounds could be heard from it. Stickerbomber looked to their right to find a cliff, along with more pillars and gray liquid flowing upward, as well as what appears to be cyan and blue squares and something moving, yet details remain unclear to them.

“Uh guys?” Stickerbomber got the attention of the other members, “You might want to see this…”

The other three members came closer to the cliff to find themselves in the same view as Stickerbomber, with different aspects grabbing their attention.

“Why is the water flowing upwards?” Kotemitsu questioned to themself, “It should be a waterfall, not a waterrise.”

“I wonder how the squares are created,” Blendercube thought out loud.

“I’m wondering who or what that is,” Zapbolt pointed to the moving thing.

“We… might need to stay away from the moving thing…” Kotemitsu commented.

“Yeah we should,” Stickerbomber replied.

The crew members continued venturing, going in the same direction as the river flowing. Cyan and blue glitching squares could be seen sporadically over the horizon and the “sky” itself could be seen glitching occasionally.

…

After what seemed like hours of walking, they were brought to a small lake connected to the river they had been following.

“Does this seem like anything?” Kotemitsu asked.

“I’d imagine the bottom of the lake could have secrets that could lead us to an exit,” Blendercube explained.

“I’ll see if I can reach the bottom of it,” Zapbolt stated. He inhaled deeply before diving into the lake, however he was quickly brought back to the surface as if he was a light object.

“I’m going to need assistance,” he explained, “If you three push me down, I can reach the bottom. And don’t take too long; I’ll let you know if I need air.”

“Got it!” Blendercube replied.

The other two nodded in agreement.

The crew members all put their hands on Zapbolt’s back as he inhaled again before submerging himself in the liquid. He extended his springy ARMS in an attempt to anchor himself to either the walls or the floor of the lake. His eyes skimmed throughout the floor of the lake, which was consistently gray and somewhat bumpy, except for one area, which had cracks glowing cyan.

“If this is a sign for a way out of here, then I’m going to take it no matter what,” Zapbolt thought to himself, “But first, I need to check to see if it’s safe.”

He reached out to the cracks with one of his hands, which caused them to glitch out. The ground beneath him began to cave in and eventually opened up to what looked like a void beneath him.

Zapbolt grabbed the hands of the other three members and shook them.

“DON’T WORRY WE’LL GET YOU BACK UP!” Stickerbomber shouted.

“OH SNAP!” Kotemitsu panicked as they realized they were being dragged closer to the lake.

“Is this a secret?” Blendercube questioned with ambition. Before they knew it, they would be dragged down the lake, with Kotemitsu and Stickerbomber following suit.

The crew members were quickly taken to the caving ground before falling down along with the liquid from the lake. They would quickly feel the ground of another area.

Zapbolt picked himself back up off the ground, with Blendercube following suit. Stickerbomber could be heard coughing.

“Blegh! Tastes like paint and oil!” They said in between coughs.

“Wait,” Kotemitsu picked themself up, “You know what those taste like!?” They asked in a rather disgusted tone.

“That’s what I’d imagine they would taste like together,” they replied before picking themself up.

“Are you three alright!?” Zapbolt asked, noticeably sounding more worried than usual.

“I’m alright…” Kotemitsu replied softly, “I guess…”

“I am doing great!” Blendercube shouted despite the circumstances.

“Z-Zapbolt?” Stickerbomber stuttered, “I know you’re trying to get us out of… whatever this place is and I do appreciate your bravery, but I don’t think we should just interact with random stuff here.”

Zapbolt looked down in distraught. “I have been jumping to conclusions, haven’t I?” He thought to himself, “I brought them all into danger that should have been avoidable… and all because I have been tackling things head first without any second thought…”

“I’ll admit it,” he stated, “I have been jumping to conclusions and connecting random pieces together without any rhyme or reason. I’m sorry for dragging you guys into huge danger. I should have been more cautious.”

“I’m glad you’re noticing the difference between bravery and recklessness,” Stickerbomber replied to Zapbolt.

“And now I’m noticing more differences between caution and fear,” Zapbolt continued on, “Not that I consider you fearful however.”

Zapbolt and Stickerbomber both reached out to one another and wrapped their arms around each other. Kotemitsu and Blendercube walked closer to the former two.

“So about the plan,” Kotemitsu brought up, “We still have to get out of here… right?”

“Of course,” Zapbolt replied as he let go of Stickerbomber, “We just need a different and less reckless approach.”

“How should we get out of here?” Blendercube wondered.

“We should set that up together.”

“Maybe we could build a contraption that will get us back up to the surface,” Kotemitsu explained, “I think I might have a few spare batteries in my storage. Blendercube has them stored." [1]

“We definitely should!” Stickerbomber shouted excitedly while looking at the “sky.” A blue flash flickered all throughout the area before a loud bang was heard. Stickerbomber’s face changed from an expression of excitement to one of shock and concern.

“But first we should either let this storm pass or investigate what’s causing it,” Zapbolt stated.

“ALL THE ENTITIES WHO CAME HERE SHOULD SCRAM!” A loud, heavily glitched up voice could faintly be heard. The voice was somewhat high in pitch and sounded familiar to the crew members.

“Could that be–” Blendercube was interrupted by the ground beneath the crew members starting to shake.

“Everyone stick together!” Stickerbomber shouted. The crew members held out their arms and grabbed each other’s hands. The ground began shaking more and more violently.

“DAMN IT!” The glitched up voice shouted.

“SHOW YOURSELF!” Zapbolt shouted back.

Blendercube noticed black cracks crawling across the ground…

…and they were getting closer to them…

“ZAPBOLT! STICKERBOMBER! KOTEMITSU!” Blendercube panicked.

“DON’T WORRY, BLENDERCUBE!” Zapbolt stated, “WE’LL BRAVE WHATEVER IS THROWN AT US TOGETHER!”

The ground continued to crumble, with pieces falling through the cracks. The pillars around them were discharging electricity.

“Looks like we have no other choice,” Zapbolt stated, “We have got to do the Friend Parachute!”

“Blendercube, you’re sticking with us!” Kotemitsu panicked as they grabbed Blendercube’s hand tighter.

The ground beneath them collapsed.

“FINE! BE DUMBASS PUNCHING BAGS THEN!” The glitched up voice snarled at the crew members.

Cyan and blue squares and glitches could be seen as they kept falling.

“Whatever this dangerous being is, we’ll beat it together,” Stickerbomber stated with a sense of determination.

“Til’ death do us apart,” Zapbolt stated.

They then felt themselves hit the ground. It felt different from the ground of previous areas. Instead of floors found in schools or malls or the like, it instead had the texture of a smooth metal, yet it felt like they had landed on a soft carpet. It felt cool, like a semi-used ice pack. Their views were obscured by what appears to be red dust clouds, something they haven’t seen in this place before.

Who knows what could lie within the dust clouds…

Chapter End Notes

[1] I probably should have explained this earlier, but Blendercube has the ability to turn some objects into holograms that they can store in an inventory they have.

Also unrelated, but holy Biff this chapter is over 3,000 words long :000 (3,252 to be exact (or at least according to Wattpad)!) I have beaten my record!

Chapter 5 - The Big Fight

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

A silhouette could be seen within the red dust clouds. It appeared to be blocky, was incredibly tall (appearing to be close to the same height as Zapbolt), and appeared to have a floating head, arms, legs, and tail.

Zapbolt got back onto his feet, “WHO ARE YOU!?” He shouted at the silhouette.

“IT DOESN’T MATTER!” it shouted with its glitched voice, “YOU AND YOUR PLANET WILL BE EXTERMINATED!”

The dust clouds started to dissipate as the other crew members got back onto their feet, revealing more and more of the silhouette.

It had a familiar hairstyle with red streaks, covering half of its face. What is not covered however was what appeared to be a mask concealing the lower half of its face, and a cyan eye giving off an intimidating glare. The body was primarily white and dark gray, with a blue and cyan vest with a badge containing what appears to be a logo, and accents of the same colors running down its arms. While it didn’t seem to have hands, red holograms in the shape of grapplers seen on cranes could be seen forming in place of them.

The figure was familiar to them…

…almost too familiar…

“CROSSFIRE!?” They all shouted in utter surprise.

“BEGINNING TERMINATION PROCESS.” The figure stated.
The area began to rumble. Small crumbs could be seen falling from the top. Two serpentine entities are seen emerging from behind the figure. Instead of having orange accents like the crew members had fought before, they had red accents instead and appeared to be larger than the ones they faced.

“Alright, crew!” Zapbolt commanded, “You all know what to do!” Zapbolt, Stickerbomber, and Blendercube all charged up their Bzzzammers, Sticklers, and Parazaps respectively.

“Blendercube, loud out the minibots!” Kotemitsu commanded.

“Got it covered!” Blendercube replied as they created holograms in front of them, which would later manifest into Kotemitsu’s minibots.

One of the figure’s arms uncoiled itself and extended like a spring, splitting up the crew members into groups of two when they leaped out of the way. A loud “SLAM!” could be heard between the crew members. The arm would be lifted up, revealing a glitching dent in the ground.

“Kotemitsu and Blendercube! You two will take care of the left side. Stickerbomber and I will take care of the right,” Zapbolt stated.

“Rodger!” Kotemitsu replied.

The serpentine entity roared as Zapbolt and Stickerbomber charged their ARMS.

“I’ll go after the front, you tackle its six!” Zapbolt planned.

“Sure thing!” Stickerbomber replied as they made attempts to motivate themself in their head.

“You can do this,” they thought to themself, “Not just for you… not just for the Creative Crew… but for the whole world…”

The serpent submerged itself underneath the ground, which would be followed by the ground rumbling. Zapbolt and Stickerbomber took a step back before the entity quickly emerged from the floor and lunged itself forward, aiming for Zapbolt.

Zapbolt shoved one of his Bzzzammers into the maw of the entity, with the ARM discharging electricity.

“Now’s your chance!” He shouted at Stickerbomber.

“Got it!” Stickerbomber ran to the back of the entity before aiming his Sticklers at the back of its head, making it lose its grip on the Bzzzammer. He spun the entity around in circles before slamming it down in the corrupted dent, causing it to roar in anguish before disintegrating into squares.

“Great work!” Zapbolt complimented to Stickerbomber, “That’s some real aleamal aljamaeiu [1] you showed off!”

“Thanks, amigo!” Stickerbomber replied, “Now to fight that figure.”

“DAMN YOU MEATMOBS!” [2] The figure shouted, “YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT TRUE PAIN IS!”

“If you’re truly Crossfire, we can’t go on without you!” Stickerbomber stated. “We need to get you out of this place!”

“OUT OF MY POCKET DIMENSION?!” The figure shouted in disgust, “CREATED BY OUR LORD MANIFESTING A NEW UTOPIA?!”

“Something must have happened to you!” Zapbolt shouted, “We’re trying to help you through it!”

“YOU SEE OUR WORK IN PROGRESS AS A PENDING CURSE?!” The figure’s voice glitched more and more as more wrath seeped into its speech.

One of its ARMS uncoiled into a spring, and seeked for Zapbolt. A red hologram in the shape of a crane surrounded him before he was constricted by it before his eyes. He was swiftly brought back to the figure.

“What are you doing to Zapbolt?!” Stickerbomber cried out as they uncoiled their springy ARMS in an attempt to bring themself closer to the figure. Despite their attempts however, the figure swung its other arm, knocking their ARMS off of it and sliding across the ground.

“YOU DON’T DESERVE THIS PLANET IF YOU KEEP JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS!” The figure shouted as it swung its arm as fast as it could before letting go of Zapbolt, sending him flying to the other side of the corrupted dent.

Zapbolt felt something being knocked over by his own body. He heard a high pitch yelp, coming from a familiar voice.

“Zapbolt?” Kotemitsu muttered with concern.

Another serpentine entity is seen rising in front of them, opening its jaws before a light orange flaming projectile can be seen flying into one of its eyes. The entity screeched in pain as the fire continued burning one of its red eyes.

Zapbolt quickly got back onto his feet as the entity glared at him despite its condition. As it opened its jaws, it swiftly lunged towards Zapbolt. He then felt a set of teeth onto his right arm.

Zapbolt gained a visceral reaction from the bite, briefly sealing his eyes shut and letting a soft hiss escape from his mouth.

His reaction then changed to realization from how he didn’t felt much pain after the initial piercing of the entity’s fangs; it had felt like someone clinging onto his ARM with a set of fingernails. He thinks the attack had been dampened by the singe it had recieved earlier.

He then swung his scaly tail with a lightning bolt shaped tip that began to discharge electricity at the entity, giving it a jolt, which caused it to lose its grip on his arm and fall to the ground. He then saw something reaching his peripheral vision before looking downward to his right.

“Alright, Blendercube!” He affirmed them, “Finish it off!”

“Copy that!” Blendercube responded as blue light formed in front of them, later coming together and creating what appeared to be a harpoon gun in front of them.
“HOLOGRAM HARPOON!” They shouted as they fired the gun at the entity. The harpoon shot at the entity’s other eye, causing it to screech one last time before collapsing to the ground and disintegrating.

“YOU DARE OBLITERATE MY COMPANIONS!?” The figure shouted with sheer wrath as red lights came together and formed a red hologram resembling a crossbow on where would be its hand, “I’LL OBLITERATE YOUR SOULS OFF THIS PLANET IN THE FAVOR OF OUR LORD, PROFESSOR NEO--”

The figure felt a force pushing its back, knocking it down before it could finish its sentence. Cyan lightning bolts sparked around it as they remained laying down on the ground.

“DON’T YOU DARE HURT ANY OF US!” Stickerbomber shouted at the figure.

“RECALIBRATING.” The figured stated to itself. Its voice was glitching up more than before. It made an attempt to lift itself up with its ARMS.

The figure lifted itself back on its “feet” and pointed one of its ARMS at Stickerbomber. It then slightly shook its ARM in an attempt to manifest more holograms, but nothing appeared to manifest.

“DAMN YOU DISARM STATUS!” The figure grew more and more frustrated.

Kotemitsu, Blendercube, and Zapbolt found themselves a perfect opportunity as the figure continued struggling to manifest holograms.

Kotemitsu reached out to both their minibots and could be seen pressing buttons on the back of them. Blendercube brought together strings of cyan light, which appeared to shine like little wisps, as well as geometric shapes of the same material as their crafts from earlier, eventually manifesting together to create some sort of old fashioned cannon. Zapbolt charged up his Bzzzammer ARMS, then raised them into the air as if he’s about to slam them into the ground.

Kotemitsu gave Zapbolt and Blendercube a thumbs up after tinkering with their minibots.

Zapbolt gained a smirk on their face, “Kamin,” [3] he commanded.

Kotemitsu pressed a button on both of their minibots, allowing both of them to charge up projectiles of light and fire respectively, Blendercube pulled what appeared to be a string on the back of the cannon, and Zapbolt slammed both of his ARMS to the ground, causing the ground around them to shake and a series of off-white, jagged spikes emerging in front of them.

The figure heard the sounds coming from behind it. Before it could react, it was struck with a blinding and burning strike from what looked to be lasers, followed by an unidentified feeling, which felt similar to pain. The figure looked behind its back to find spikes rapidly emerging and heading towards it.

“OH SNAP-” its glitched up voice muttered before it was struck from the ground up. It had felt like a thousand little bullets stinging its whole body.

The figure let out a glitched cry of anguish as it tumbled to the floor.

“D-DAMN YOU BASTARDS!” it grunted.

“Finish them off, asidiqa!” Zapbolt commanded, “Every possible angle!”

“Rodger!” Kotemitsu responded.

“Got it, amigo!” Stickerbomber replied.

“Copy that!” Blendercube shouted.

Kotemitsu and their minibots dashed to the left of the figure, Blendercube brought their cannon and dashed to the right, and Stickerbomber charged up his ARMS and dashed in front of it. Zapbolt charged up his ARMS. “Aldarbat alnihayiyatu!” [4] He shouted to the other members.

The crew members unleashed their weaponry at the figure. A look of determination painted their faces as they were about to deliver the last shot at the figure.

“BZZZAM!”

“NO!” The figure roared as it had unleashed a large cyan shockwave that flashed through all four members. All attacks previously launched had stopped mid-air and fell to the ground. All crew members previously bringing themselves closer to the figure were knocked back, as if someone had thrown them across the area. They were all surrounded by flickering cyan lightning bolts.

“Argh, que diabos!?” [5] Stickerbomber muttered in complete shock.

Kotemitsu tumbled to the curved walls of the area. They looked over to find the same cyan lightning bolts flickering around both of their minibots.

“Kuzureochinaide…” [6] they muttered as they uncoiled one of their ARMS and extended it towards one of the minibots.

Blendercube was thrown to the same curved walls before falling down to the ground. As soon as they hit the ground, they turned into a mess of off-white, cyan, magenta, and orange squares jumbling up on one another.

While Stickerbomber couldn’t completely get back up on his feet, he could look over to his left to find the jumbled up mess that Blendercube became, as well as small text above them that read “Loading…”

“Need to… help you…” Stickerbomber spoke out as they attempted to reach out one of their hands towards Blendercube.

Zapbolt looked back up and at the figure. Though the cyan lightning was an indication for some status condition, he was still determined to fight to the death.

“He told me to not back down in a fight, even if I’m at a disadvantage,” he told to himself. The figure turned around to find him attempting to get back on his feet.

“I THOUGHT I FINISHED YOU OFF!” It shouted.

“NOT UNTIL I AM DONE FIGHTING!” He shouted back. His Bzzzammer ARM glowed a bright blue at both necks and discharged electricity before being sent in the direction of the corrupted figure itself.

The figured dashed to the right of the ARM before creating a red hologram portraying a large crane-like hand at the end of its left ARM and extending it towards Zapbolt.

Zapbolt found himself surrounded by the hand before he could jump out of the way. He would be picked up and slammed into the walls of the area. It had felt similar to a TV Screen, with the wall even flickering a bit at the collision of the slam. It had also felt like tiny pieces were piercing though both the skin and scales of Zapbolt’s back, yet despite this he was still determined to fight to the death.

“If you truly want to banish me, then I’m taking you with me,” Zapbolt hissed. He charged up the tip of his tail with electricity and attempted to whip it, aiming for the figure’s ARM that was keeping him to the wall. The figure barely budged.

“IF YOU THINK WE’RE BOTH GONNA DIE, THEN YOU’RE DYING FIRST!” The figure snarled as it carried Zapbolt from the wall, then spun around once before slamming him to the ground.

Zapbolt could feel a sense of pain he never felt before in multiple areas on his body, almost as if something was about to take over his body. He didn’t want to admit it the pain he felt, especially since he started having the flashback in his mind.

The flashback of him in the Sparring Ring back in ARMSopolis, training with The Bouncer, Spring Man for the next Grand Prix.

He remember the punches from both him and The Bouncer being through; some landed, some missed, and some deflected.

But there is one aspect he remembered most…

He was amazed by The Bouncer’s ability to deflect incoming punches on a whim with some sort of blue matter briefly swirling around him…

He wanted to adapt to that ability and put his own spin on it…

“Alright, Spring Man taught you this…” Zapbolt muttered to himself, “This moment is for him… for you… for the Creative Crew…”

His mind would snap back to reality as he focused extensively on the corrupted figure. Despite the stinging sensation throughout his body, it was out of his focus. He slowly lifted up his left leg and placed a step in front of him. He then used the same leg to elevate himself, allowing him to place his right foot on the ground. The tip of his tail began to spark with electricity as he regained determination.

“Alright, crew!” Zapbolt began to spoke, “Group together now! Bring whatever you can!”

“Rodger!” Kotemitsu managed to get themself back up after noticing the cyan sparks flashing around them less frequently. They ordered their minibots to follow them, eventually being brought next to Zapbolt.

“Incoming!” Stickerbomber shouted as they grabbed Blendercube before leaping, eventually landing next to Zapbolt and Kotemitsu.

“L-LOOKS LIKE Y-YOU’RE ALL GOING T-TO BE D-DRAGGED TO HELL TOG-GETHER!” The figure shouted as a red hologram resembling a familiar crossbow formed at the end of their right ARM. Its voice became heavily glitched up by this point, and even parts of itself were glitching, with some being covered by technicolor squares as seen on the smaller corrupted entities from earlier, and other areas gaining some opaque dark gray liquid-like substance.

It then aimed the crossbow-like ARM at the crew members.

“This is it…” Zapbolt thought to himself, “This is the moment…” He brought the tip of his tail in front of him as it sparked brighter.

The crossbow was fired.

Zapbolt’s tail discharged electricity, which would hit the speeding projectile, causing it to glitch and quickly disintegrate.

“Whoa…” Stickerbomber admired, “You actually did it!”

“I knew the Grand Prix training would pay off!” Zapbolt remarked.

“D-DAMN IT YOU B-BASTAR-RDS!” The figure shouted in frustration, “GUESS W-WE’LL BE G-GETTING MORE PHYS-SICAL!”

The crossbow hologram would shift into what appeared to be a hammer-like ARM, almost identical to Zapbolt’s Bzzzammers. It would then extend its other ARM, reaching out right in front of Zapbolt.

“N-NOW COME G-GET YOUR ONE W-WAY TICKET T-TO HELL!” The figure used its extended ARM to pull itself closer to the crew. As it drew closer and was about to slam its hammer hologram, Zapbolt brought his sparking tail above his head.

“BZZAM!”

The figure looked over to find the hologram glitching and covered in red and cyan squares.

“YOU S-SON OF A C-CONSTRICTOR!” [7] The figure snarled.

“Alright this is it!” Zapbolt stated, “LET’S FINISH THIS FIGHT ONCE AND FOR ALL! ALTOGETHER NOW!”

The other three crew members all charged up their arsenal while determination grew within them. Stickerbomber’s Stickler ARMS started glowing bright magenta, Blendercube’s

Parazaps glowed a bright cyan and small electric shocks discharged from it, and Kotemitsu recoded their two minibots before the barrels started glowing from inside.

All four crew members themselves began to glow with a bright yellow aura, making the area around them seem dark in comparison.

“RAMPAGING RUSH!” They all said in unison as three of the members uncoiled their ARMS and extended them towards the figure.

“OH SNAAAA-” The figure muttered with its heavily glitched voice before being pummeled with the charged up ARMS. It would be knocked back by each punch without a moment to retaliate.

Kotemitsu’s minibots both unleashed a beam of energy from their barrels, striking the figure with pure energy of light and fire.

“T-THIS C-CAN’T B-BE!” The figure muttered before a loud bang could be heard followed by a shockwave briefly hitting the crew members and dark red dust clouds covered the whole area.

Stickerbomber covered their mouth and nose with their hands and shirt and closed their eyes while emitting a light cough.

Zapbolt’s expression shifted from a look of determination to a look of concern, “If that really was Crossfire… did we… kill them?”

“We probably did,” Blendercube responded, sounding like they were completely unphased by the thought.

Zapbolt looked at his right toward Blendercube in complete surprise and disbelief.

“Oh no…” Kotemitsu muttered before they began to panic, “NO! NOOOOOOO!!!”

“It’s going to be okay, Mitsu!” Zapbolt brought himself closer to what looks like a silhouette of them in the clouds in an attempt to console them, “I hope that’s not the case,” he was brought back to attempting to glare at Blendercube in complete shock.

“I really hope they are okay if that’s really them…” Stickerbomber muttered.

Chapter End Notes

[1] Roughly translates to “teamwork” in Arabic, though take it with a grain of salt as I know next to nothing about Arabic and took it from Google Translate.
[2] A slur used against humans in The Creativerse (the universe where ARMS: NEO DESTINY takes place in)
[3] Roughly translates to “Ambush” from Arabic

[4] Roughly translates to “Final Blow!” from Arabic.
[5] Roughly translates to "What the hell!?"from Brazilian Portuguese.
[6] Roughly translates to "Don't... fall... apart..." from Japanese.
[7] Short for Coilconstrictor, it is a slur used against people with the ARMS Gene.

Chapter 6 - The Escape

As the dust clouds persisted, the crew members began looking around for any remains of the area. It was easier said than done, as the clouds were obstructing their sight.

“You guys might want to cover up your faces for a bit,” Stickerbomber muttered, “I don’t think we should be breathing this stuff in. I don’t even know what this stuff is. Hope this doesn’t trigger my allergies…”

Kotemitsu and Zapbolt looked at each other and proceeded to cover their faces. “Not sure what this is either, but better safe than sorry,” Kotemitsu stated.

“I found some treasure!” Blendercube’s voice shot the crew members from behind. The three looked behind them to find them with what looks like a cyan shard with a badge attached to it. Said badge contains a pencil drawing out a lightning bolt.

“They seem to be remains of that thing we just fought,” They explained cheerfully.

The dust clouds began to dissipate, revealing more of the area’s details, including more shards consisting of the colors cyan, blue, dark gray, white, and red.

“I wonder if we can use these for anything…” Kotemitsu muttered, “Either for a new minibot… or for some sort of memorial…” Both Kotemitsu and Blendercube continued collecting the shards scattered throughout.

Zapbolt and Stickerbomber brought themselves to the center of the area, where they found a disarray of cracks on the floor, as well as more cracks on the walls.

“Another slam to the walls and they’ll start crumbling,” Zapbolt remarked.

“Hope that doesn’t happen to ARMSopolis anytime soon…” Stickerbomber fretted, “Hopefully that infestation didn’t do too much damage to the place… or to us crew members…”

“I hope so too… And even if we were to crumble, we’ll always find a way to bring ourselves back together… piece by piece…”

Zapbolt opened up his arms, which caused Stickerbomber to walk closer to him and wrap their arms around him. Zapbolt responded by closing his arms on them, wrapping them around Stickerbomber.

Kotemitsu and Blendercube continued collecting the shards scattered across when Blendercube attempted to pick what looked like another large gray shard.

“Oh! This one appears to be a lot heavier than the other pieces!” They exclaimed.

“Wait really!?” Kotemitsu responded. They walked over and crouched down to get a closer look at the piece. When they picked it up, it appeared to look a lot like a hand with an orange and yellow liquid underneath it. Said liquid also contained tiny bubbles as seen on carbonated drinks.
“Wait…” Kotemitsu took some time to process, “This isn’t a shard… That’s…”

The dust clouds continued to dissipate to the point where they were barely visible. It would be revealed that they were handling the hand of someone with an orange and yellow vest and had metal with soda inside coiled into springs for arms. Said person appeared to be lying down on their belly, unphased by Kotemitsu handling their hand.

“CROSSFIRE CITRUS SHINESTAR!?” Kotemitsu’s voice pierced through the air, alerting Zapbolt and Stickerbomber, who were standing behind them.

“Wait!? Is it really them!?” Stickerbomber shouted as they dashed in front of Zapbolt to find them completely motionless. Zapbolt turned around and looked over the situation. He felt they had to do something to bring them back.

“Give them CPR!” Zapbolt stated, “I’ll give them a jolt if needed!”

Kotemitsu quickly flipped over Crossfire’s body, causing them to lie on their back instead of their belly. They would then dash closer to Crossfire and reach their arms out to the center of their chest before placing their proaesthetic hand on top of the regular hand. They would then press their hands onto Crossfire’s chest rhythmically.

“Thank goodness our school taught us about performing CPR,” Kotemitsu muttered.

Kotemitsu continued pressing on Crossfire’s chest. They were getting worried as Crossfire remained unresponsive.

“I’m gonna have to do it, aren’t I?” Kotemitsu thought to themself before taking his hands over to Crossfire’s jaw, opening up their mouth before connecting their mouth onto it. They would later blow into their mouth in hopes for a response.

After the disconnect, a soft squeak could be heard, which would later turn into brief gasping and panicking. It came from Crossfire. They would sit back up with an expression of panic on their face as they continued breathing rapidly. Kotemitsu placed their hand on their back and rubbed it in an effort to calm them down. Crossfire’s breathing would later slow down a bit.

Crossfire lifted up one of their hands to their face, then proceeded to rub their left face cheek with it. They were met with a mild sting, like a cold ice pack had been placed on a bruise. They would then take the hand back in front of them.

“You’re… telling me I can… control my own body… again?” Crossfire croaked. They then looked to their left to see Kotemitsu before looking back in front of them to see Zapbolt, Stickerbomber, and Blendercube. They would then reach out the same hand, with Zapbolt reaching out and grabbing it.

“Are you okay?” Zapbolt asked quietly as he lifted them up. Eventually Crossfire would get back up on their feet. Their legs trembled for a bit. They would tuck their large tail made of soda between their legs, as well as letting go of Zapbolt’s hand. They looked back at Zapbolt before spreading their arms apart. Their eyes were filled with utter shock and disbelief, yet remained room for trust and relief.

Zapbolt would later spread his arms before wrapping them around Crossfire, then they would follow suit. They brought Zapbolt as close to them as they could, eventually shedding a couple of tears on his chestplate and letting out a few whimpers. Kotemitsu, Blendercube, and Stickerbomber would later bring themselves closer to the two.

“We’re so glad to have you back, amigo,” Stickerbomber said softly to Crossfire, “We truly are.” They would later place their right hand onto Crossfire’s shoulder. Kotemitsu and Blendercube would later make their rounds and wrap their arms around them, though Blendercube would wrap their arms around one of Crossfire’s legs due to their small size.

“You… don’t know how much… I wanted to get out of this purgatory,” Crossfire softly spoke.

Those words struck through Stickerbomber like an invisible bullet. “Not the purgatory claims again,” they muttered unknowingly.

Crossfire broke off the hug between them and Zabolt and looked over to their right where Stickerbomber is.

“How did you guys even get here in the first place?” Their voice is noticably less croaky.

Zapbolt became rather quiet after Crossfire asked. He knew what he wanted to say; he just didn’t know how to say it without coming across as crazy.

“A large burrow back in the Spring Gym brought us here,” Blendercube answered, “Well… after we were forced down there by that thing that is.”

“If you guys managed to get down here, then we can get back up to ARMSopolis…” Crossfire explained, “...right?”

Kotemitsu gained a look of uncertainty on their face and began to scratch the back of their head, “Well… technically we can… but I don’t know where the burrow is… and we journeyed pretty far…”

“We traveled through unknown territories, beat up bad guys, and found Crossfire!” Blendercube stated excitedly, “Someone should write a novel about that!”

“Oh Blender,” Kotemitsu lightly chuckled as they placed their hand on top of Blendercube’s head.

“Yeah… I’d read that!” Crossfire chuckled awkwardly in an attempt to lighten the mood.

Zapbolt and Stickerbomber watched over the other three crew members. Stickerbomber remained unsure on how they were gonna get out of this place, or if they would even get out

in the first place. Zapbolt reached out one of his hands towards Stickerbomber as a gesture for safety. Stickerbomber looked at Zapbolt and reached out one of their hands and grabbed his.

“Well… if we are stuck here and we die somehow… at least we’ll all stick together… even when we’re dead…” Stickerbomber muttered to Zapbolt.

Zapbolt looked back at Stickerbomber, “It’s a sign of loyalty and trust… and we’ll be sure to never let go of each other…”

“Yeah… I still wish for a way out of here and back in ARMSopolis… or somewhere where we can see our friends and fellow fighters again… especially my parent…”

“I’m sure we’ll make something. We are the Creative Crew after all.”

“Of course! We got the skill!”

Crossfire is looking up at the top of the cliffs surrounding them while Blendercube and Kotemitsu are taking leftover pieces from Blendercube’s cannon from earlier and thinking of a contraption that will help all the crew members in finding a way back to the surface. Crossfire looked back to the walls of the area to find large cracks throughout. The TV screen-like bits of the walls were also seen flickering. Crossfire then felt the ground rumbling beneath them before looking up to find small pieces falling from above.

“OHHH SNAP!” Stickerbomber shouted, “WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!”

“ALTOGETHER EVERYONE!” Zapbolt commanded.

The crew members all scurried themselves to each other as more pieces began falling and the ground began shaking more violently.

“It’s raining pebbles!” Crossfire shouted as their eyes glowed green and a large, thick, sturdy umbrella made of the unknown matter formed in their hands. They quickly unfolded it and pieces began to bounce off the umbrella.

They looked over to find the walls collapsing and being turned to pieces of its former self. Said pieces would eventually pile up and form hills, presumably leading up to the top of the cliffs.

Everyone grabbed each other’s hands and walked up the hill, hoping the higher levels of the place would have something to offer to aid in their journey. Pebbles and other chunks kept falling and sliding down the hill as they kept walking.

Zapbolt reached the top of the hill to find himself next to the familiar white floor he and the crew ventured through earlier. He looked up to discover something new… new, yet also unnerving…

“Any signs of an exi— OH SNAP WHAT IS GOING ON?!” Kotemitsu looked up to find the “sky” gaining glowing white patches formed from cracks. Pieces of the “sky” are seen gradually crumbling and falling down.

The ground began to rumble… it began to rumble more violently than before…

“We must move on!” Zapbolt stated, “There’ll be no sleep tonight!”

The crew members grouped together and had to move quickly. Shadows were seen forming and getting more dense before objects fell and took their place.

“Where do these patches lead to?” Crossfire wondered.

“If we came here from a hole…” Stickerbomber attempted to connect the dots, “…and we fell down into some of that water…”

“So if we get high enough to reach those cracks, we might be able to escape this purgatory,” Blendercube explained.

With the plan explained, Zapbolt thought to himself about using the falling objects as a staircase. He then looked over to find askew pillar-like chunks wedged into the ground over in the distance and gained an idea.

“Follow me,” he commanded, “I got an idea.”

The crew members zig zagged their way to the askew pillars. Despite the ground trembling beneath their feet, the pillars mostly remained In tact. By the looks of it, they appeared to be sturdy enough to take a few hits from falling pieces. Looking up, there appeared to be more pillars diverging in similar directions, almost as if it’s a large, dead tree.

Zapbolt wrapped his arms around the pillar and pulled himself upward, with the other crew members following suit.

The pillar was noticeably trembling at the grasp of the crew members’ hands, yet they couldn’t let go now. They all continued bringing themselves higher on the pillars as fast as they could, determined to reach the glowing white void.

More pieces were crumbling from the “sky” to the point where the white void covered most of their vision. Zapbolt felt like he could almost reach what’s in the void.

Though he couldn’t stand on the pillars, he uncoiled one of his arms and reached out his hand. He felt he was about to come into contact with what inhabits the void.

Then the ground began to rumble…

The connected pillars began to crumble and fall…

Everyone felt the gravity pull them down to what would become an endless void…

Zapbolt continued reaching his hand out, even when hope seemed to wane…

Everyone else uncoiled their arms and reached out their hands to each other, with Crossfire reaching out to Zapbolt. The result is the crew members holding onto each other, one by one.

Zapbolt then felt something latch onto his wrist, saving him and the other crew members from falling.

“We got ya, mate!” A feminine voice shouted. She had a slight Australian accent.

He looked up to find a whole bunch of people holding on to each other. While he couldn’t count how many people there were, he knew most of the people he saw. The person in front of him had purple hair, sky blue and purple face paint, and proaesthetics that make up the lower half of her arms.

Zapbolt grabbed the person’s other arm with his other hand. “Send them the signal that you saved us, Ultraviolent,” he stated.

“Alright,” she agreed before looking behind, “EVERYONE ON THE SURFACE, BRING US BACK UP!”

Everyone was slowly, but surely being brought closer to the glowing void, eventually being engulfed by the light of it. Zapbolt squinted his eyes shut as the brightness was becoming too much for him. While he couldn’t see what was going on, he knew that this madness the crew went through was coming to an end.

After what felt like forever, his knees came in contact with what felt like the ground. He opened his eyes to find asphalt before looking up to find a familiar city.

”We’re back in ARMSopolis!” Blendercube cheered.

Zapbolt picked himself back up to find himself in front of Ultraviolent before looking behind to find the other crew members. Blendercube was ecstatic to see everyone else who saved them, while Kotemitsu, Stickerbomber, and Crossfire were incredibly shaken from what they went through.

Crossfire walked closer to Zapbolt and wrapped their springy arms around him. He looked over to find their pupils the size of what appeared to be tiny beads.

”We’ll get you therapy, don’t worry,” Zapbolt spoke softly as he brought his hand to the top of their head and gently rubbed it.

”Okay,” Crossfire muttered.

”Yeah a lot has happened here during the time it took for us to get here, eh?” Another person spoke as they walked closer to Ultraviolent and Zapbolt. They sounded androgynous and had a British accent. They had long purple hair tied up in a ponytail, a yellow star hair clip, a dark purple ARMS Mask with pink accents and a yellow star, a suit reminiscent of an astronaut suit, and springy arms made of two different materials; their left arm being made of moon rocks, and their right arm being made of purple stardust.

”Yeeeeaaaahhh…” Zapbolt dragged out, “Let’s just keep it at that.”

Stickerbomber walked over to the entrance of the Spring Gym to find a piece of paper taped to one of the glass doors.

”Sorry! The Spring Gym is closed for maintenance. We hope to spring back in top shape soon!”

”Darn,” Stickerbomber muttered, “I’m not surprised in the slightest, but still. I was hoping to fight Ultraviolent and Captain Starlight today.”

Ultraviolent walked up to Stickerbomber, “Say if you’re up for kicking some ass, maybe we can play some video games together. Same kick; just without the feeling of being completely drained.”

”That can work out. I could really go for a stress reliever after what happened.”

“Hooray for kicking ass in video games!” Captain Starlight shouted as they walked up to Ultraviolent and Stickerbomber.

”Then what are we waiting for?” Kotemitsu walked up to the trio, “The sooner we leave this side of ARMSopolis, the sooner things get fixed and the sooner we can get back to ARMS Fights.”

“Alright!” Captain Starlight reached out their hand to Kotemitsu before being shaken by them, “We’ll be ready when you are.”

”See you soon,” Kotemitsu spoke before turning to the other crew members, “We’re heading back to the apartment, everyone!”

With everyone finally reunited, they began taking on the path provided by the sidewalk next to the Spring Gym. The sun was starting to set, leaving the mostly clear sky with a golden look. The clouds that remained gained a warm pink color, almost as if they turned into cotton candy. Though everyone felt tired, the warm glow the sun gave off was enough for the trip back to their apartments. They had worked hard for the day and it was time for a break consisting of laying down on a soft bed and wrapped in puffy blankets.

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